



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES E. CUNNINGHAM



Brigadier General James (Jim) E. Cunningham is a traditional guardsman serving as the Oregon Assistant Adjutant General for Air and the Commander, Oregon Air National Guard. With headquarters in Salem, Oregon, he has the overall responsibility for the organization, training and equipping of the seven units and nearly 2,000 personnel within the state.

The general began his military career in 1970, completing undergraduate pilot training in January 1971. His initial operational assignment was at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, where he was assigned as the assistant base operations officer. He gained combat experience serving as a forward air controller in the 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, during the Vietnam conflict. He was released from active duty in 1977 and joined the California Air National Guard. Two years later he joined the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, where he served in numerous command and staff positions. Prior to his current position, General Cunningham was the Oregon Air National

Guard Director of Operations, overseeing state operations and training for seven Air Guard units and coordinating Air Guard involvement in state emergency operations and military air space management issues. As a civilian, General Cunningham is employed as a pilot for United Airlines. He is a captain flying Boeing 737-300/500 jetliners. He is an active member of the National Guard Association and the Airline Pilots Association.

EDUCATION:

- 1969 – Bachelor of arts degree in political science, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 1970 – U.S. Air Force undergraduate pilot training, Randolph AFB, Tex.
- 1975 – Squadron Officers School
- 1976 – Master of arts in management and human relations, Webster University, St. Louis, Mo.
- 1981 – Air Command and Staff College
- 1987 – Air War College

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. January 1970 – January 1971, student, undergraduate pilot training, Randolph Air Force Base, Tex.
2. February 1971 – December 1972, T-33A pilot, assistant base operations officer, 5010th CSG, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska

3. January 1973 – March 1974, OV-10A pilot, forward air controller instructor pilot, chief of aircrew training, flight commander, 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand
4. April 1974 – June 1977, T-38A advanced jet instructor pilot, class commander, 86th Flight Training Squadron, Laughlin Air Force Base, Tex.
5. June 1977 – May 1979, 02A pilot, forward air controller, 163rd Tactical Air Support Group, California Air National Guard, Ontario, Calif.
6. May 1979 – October 1979, air operations officer, 153rd Tactical Air Control Center, Oregon Air National Guard, Portland, Ore.
7. October 1979 – June 1980, general-purpose air operations officer, Headquarters, 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group, Portland, Ore.
8. June 1980 – June 1991, T-33A instructor pilot, F-101B and F-4C pilot, flight commander, 123rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard
9. June 1991 – September 1992, air operations officer, F-15A/B pilot, Headquarters, 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group, Portland, Ore.
10. September 1992 – June 1993, director of support, plans and programs officer, Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard, Portland, Ore.
11. June 1993 – February 1995, vice commander, 142nd Fighter Group, Portland, Ore.
12. February 1995 – August 1996, commander, 142nd Fighter Group, Portland, Ore.
13. August 1996 – September 1997, vice commander, 142nd Fighter Group, Portland, Ore.
14. September 1997 – December 1999, director of operations, Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard, Salem, Ore.
15. December 1999 – present, chief of staff, Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard, Salem, Ore.
16. July 2000 – present, Oregon Assistant Adjutant General for Air and Commander, Oregon Air National Guard, Salem, Ore.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,500

Aircraft flown: T-33A, OV-10A, O-2A/B, T-38A, F-101A/B, F-4C/D, F-15A/B, C-26, and Boeing 737-300/500

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor device and four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon

Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

Air Force Training Ribbon

Oregon Emergency Service Ribbon

Oregon Faithful Service Award with five oak leaf clusters.

Oregon Faithful Service Ribbon (30 years)

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant, Dec. 22, 1969

First Lieutenant, June 22, 1971

Captain, Feb. 1, 1973

Major, Nov. 7, 1982

Lieutenant Colonel, July 17, 1988

Colonel, June 15, 1993

Brigadier General, Dec. 16, 1999

(Current as of October 2000)